

SHELTER TALES

DCAWS

Volume 10 Issue 4
Winter 2009

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2009 RECAP

At the end of 11 months of operation, we've taken in 905 cats and dogs (205 more than at this point in 2008), and we've placed 673 cats and dogs (129 more than last year at this time). This means, of course, that the placement rate is lagging behind the intake rate, which in turn means that our foster homes are full and the shelter is packed.

What are we going to do if it doesn't get better? We have no idea. Due to poor socioeconomic conditions, more and more people are giving up their pets. Our area is heavily concentrated with breeders, licensed and unlicensed, who are discarding much of their "stock" due to lowering sales and rising dog food prices. Thus far we have avoided euthanasia except for a few too vicious to be trusted or so sick they couldn't get well (total of six in 11 months). Our plan on this is, one way or another, to keep it that way!

We've had a lot of help in 2009 with grants from a few places, and with some of our volunteers working on getting more. We have other volunteers helping us to get started with a computer program to help with record keeping and pet tracking at the shelter. We have many wonderful helpers and donors in the community and beyond.

At the end of November, we still had 15 dogs in outside enclosures and they need to be moved inside before cold weather really hits.

Generally people ask what we need most at Christmas, and this year we don't even have to think about it. This year dry dog food is our most pressing need. Donations of food are way down and we've had to purchase some, something that rarely happens. And what we need even more, of course, are people with hearts and homes big enough to take in another pet or two! We have special "deals" going through the end of the year on cats and dogs that have been at the shelter six months or longer.



CAT NAMES

In the last issue, we ran a list of the most popular dog names ... now the cats want equal time (and more).

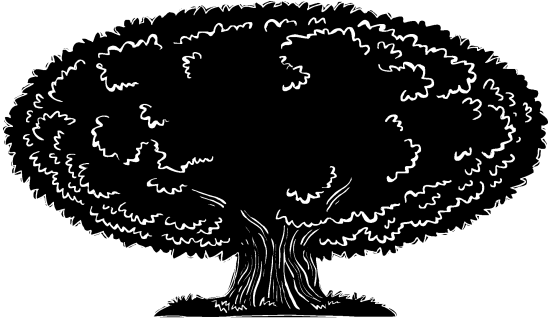
MALES

1. Tigger
2. Max
3. Tiger
4. Oliver
5. Smokey
6. Charlie
7. Simba
8. Buddy
9. Jack
10. Simon

FEMALES

1. Chloe
2. Lucy
3. Bella
4. Kitty
5. Princess
6. Molly
7. Sophie
8. Angel
9. Lily
10. Sassy

Of course, a cat by any other name is still ... well ...THE cat!



Memorial Gifts

Donations were received in memory of:

Clyde Bowers
 Ozzie White
 Bill Dalton
 Pita DeLong
 Harley Hocker
 Bubba O'Reilly-Ulett



A Poem for a Naughty Cat at Christmas

You'd better stay down, you'd better not climb
 I've taken you down for the very last time
 Santa Paws is coming to town.
 He's making a list and checking it twice...
 Deciding which cats deserve some toy mice
 Santa PAWS is coming...to town.
 He's sees where you've been sleeping
 He sees what you've knocked down
 He knows what you have shredded
 Do you WANT to go back to the pound?
 - Author Unknown



A Rescue's Christmas Poem

Tis the night before Christmas and all through the town,
 every shelter is full - we are lost, but not found,
 Our numbers are hung on our kennels so bare, we hope
 every minute that someone will care,
 They'll come to adopt us and give us the call, "Come
 here, Max and Sparkie - come fetch your new ball!!
 But now we sit here and think of the days.. we were
 treated so fondly - we had cute, baby ways.
 Once we were little, then we grew and we grew - now
 we're no longer young and we're no longer new. So out
 the back door we were thrown like the trash, they re-
 acted so quickly - why were they so rash? We "jump on
 the children:, "don't come when they call", we "bark
 when they leave us", climb over the wall. We should
 have been neutered, we should have been spayed, now
 we suffer the consequence of the errors THEY made.
 If only they'd trained us, if only we knew... we'd have
 done what they asked us and worshiped them, too.
 We were left in the backyard, or worse -let to roam- now
 we're tired and lonely and out of a home.
 They dropped us off here and they kissed us good-bye...
 "Maybe someone else will give you a try."
 So now here we are, all confused and alone... in a shelter
 with others who long for a home.

The kind workers come through with a meal and a pat,
 with so many to care for, they can't stay to chat,
 They move to the next kennel, giving each of us cheer...
 we know that they wonder how long we'll be here.
 We lay down to sleep and sweet dreams fill our heads..
 of a home filled with love and our own cozy beds.
 Then we wake to see sad eyes, brimming with tears -
 our friends filled with emptiness, worry, and fear.
 If you can't adopt us and there's no room at the Inn -
 could you help with the bills and fill our food bin? We
 count on your kindness each day of the year - can you
 give more than hope to everyone here?
 Please make a donation to pay for the heat... and help
 get us something special to eat.
 The shelter that cares for us wants us to live, and more
 of us will, if more people will give.

--Author Unknown

MISCELLANEOUS FACTS AND CHATTER

DNA test kits are becoming more and more popular. We've had people get back to us about what their dog "really" is, and the results are often surprising. Information on getting tests done can be found on the internet and average around \$60 each.

Give my pet WHAT? To keep fleas, ticks, mosquitoes and flies away from your pet, sprinkle cinnamon on the food. They (especially dogs) love the taste, too. *We at DCAWS have no idea if this works or not, but it wouldn't cost much to try!*

Your dog get freaked out during trips to the vet's office? Symptoms include panting, drooling, stress shedding, and jumping around in your lap. Some say rub the dog's head at a very special calm-down point right above the forehead. *Again ... it sure wouldn't cost anything to try.*

Gathering from the offerings in pet supply stores or pet sections of department stores, dog clothing is extremely possible. Halloween costumes are growing in popularity, while the standard sweaters remain the favorite. Makes one wonder why there aren't equal opportunities to dress up a cat ..., though most owners of felines would know the answer to that: One does not DARE dress a cat!

The most popular dog breeds in America (top ten listed in order) Labrador retriever, Golden retriever, Yorkshire terrier, German shepherd, beagle, dachshund, boxer, poodle, shih tzu, miniature schnauzer. *As a shelter person, I was surprised to see so many large dogs on the list we get so many people who wouldn't consider anything over 15 pounds!*

And as for cats, stats show the 10 most popular breeds are: Persian, Maine coon, Himalayan, Siamese, Abyssinian, Ragdoll, Birman, American shorthair, Oriental and Sphinx. *Shelters mostly deal in "mutt cats," which are quite popular. The quickest color to go is white because there are so few. And people go for cats that are somehow different, such as bob-tailed, polydactyl or those with strange colored eyes or missing limbs.*

Cats love you just as much as dogs do. They just have a different way of expressing it. And one thing cats and dogs share equally is ... loose hair EVERYWHERE! No outfit or home is complete without it.

DCAWS

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Dent County Animal Shelter
The Shelter With A Heart



A big thank you to Hallmark and PetFinder for the present Hallmark Hall of Fame movie, "A Dog Called Christmas." This heartwarming and beautifully done film may just do a great deal for opening eyes to the need of shelter pets! If you missed seeing it, we're sure the DVD will be available soon (if not already) in stores and rental places.

And remember ... spread the word ... for a limited time, long-term shelter pets can be adopted to approved homes at special rates. Check out the many available on PetFinder and/or dcaws.org.

DCAWS PETS FOR ADOPTION



CARSON

Hound/Lab mix, 3-4 year old male. He came to the shelter as a stray and had a long stay before being adopted to what seemed to be a good home. However, this family gave him to someone they knew because he liked to be at their place so much. Only they moved off and left Carson, so he was back at the shelter. He is a great dog, likes kids and other dogs. He knows some basic commands and "tricks."

PIA

Pia also entered the shelter as a stray, though it is obvious she once had a good home. She was healthy and sociable on entry. This Chesapeake Bay retriever is too active and busy to pose well, so we've not managed to get a good picture, but she is a beautiful young girl, a deep chestnut color with curls all along her back. She can be bossy with other dogs, but has not done anyone any harm and simply needs attention and training.



ANNABELLE



Annabelle and two other cats came from a rural area heavily used in the summer for fishing and canoeing. They stayed around a seasonal business place and were fed and socialized by the owners; however, the people brought them to the shelter in the late fall stating they would not be at this place enough to continue taking care of them. Born @ April 2009.

Annabelle is beautiful and loving ... and very much in need of a good home where she will get her loved returned.

SUNNY

Half-grown Maine Coon/tabby mixture, devastating handsome and heartwarming nice guy ... if looking for a cat, you couldn't do better!

